

An ADDRESS relating to the *African*  
Company, to be presented to  
HER MAJESTY.

*To the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty,*

*The Humble Address of the Governour, Council and  
Assembly, of the Island of JAMAICA.* K

WE your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal Subjects, the Governour, Council and Assembly, of this your Majesty's Island of *Jamaica*, understanding that your Majesty has at this Time under your Royal Consideration, the Trade to *Africa*, upon the Establishment of which our Estates in this your Majesty's Island, and the Welfare of this your Colony do intirely depend; and being assur'd your Majesty will always have a tender Regard to the Prosperity of all your good Subjects; presume to acquaint your Majesty, that we have for many Years past found very great Advantages from an open and free Trade to *Africa*, which we are under Apprehensions would not only be lost to us, from an Exclusive Trade, but that we should be thereby involved in insuperable Difficulties.

Besides all other Inconveniencies of Monopolies, we humbly conceive it will be plain to your Majesty, what extream Hardships we are like to suffer if it be in the Power of a few Men to rate our Commodities as they think fit to furnish our Markets, or suffer us to want as shall best suit their private Gain to engross intirely to themselves and their Factors the *Spanish* Trade, which alone can be carried on by a Supply of Negroes, and in all other Particulars to render our Interest in great Measure dependant on their own: And whether this will not have an ill Consequence upon the Trade of *Great Britain*, in discouraging the Exportation of its Woolen Manufactures, and lessening the Importation of Bullion as well as of the Commodities of the Growth of your Majesty's Plantations, we humbly submit to your Majesty's Wisdom.

But we ask Pardon of your Majesty for detaining your Ear too long, with our weak Arguments; Experience more than Reason has taught us to set an inestimable Value upon Freedom in Trade, and this Trade in particular, which is of so great Importance to us: And we humbly rely, That your Majesty, in your great Clemency and Princely Favour, will preserve and perpetuate it to all your Subjects without Exclusion.

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CONSIDERATIONS Offer'd to the Lords Commissioners of Trade and Plantations in relation to the African Company's obtaining an Exclusive Trade to the Coast of Guinea, referring to the Petitions laid down in the Address of the Governour, Council and Assembly, of JAMAICA, presented to Her Majesty, viz.

I. **T**HAT an exclusive Trade to the Coast of *Africa* will always be carried on by the Company, so as to under-balance the Trade of this Island, by which Means the Price of Slaves must necessarily be advanced, and the Price of the Commodities of the Produce of the Island beat down.

II. That the Company having that Trade intirely in their own Hands, unless the Planters will pay the exorbitant Prices demanded by the Company's Factors, they will not be furnish'd with Negroes necessary to carry on their Plantations.

III. That the Consequence of an Exclusive Trade to the Coast of *Guinea* will in Effect be the Establishing in the Company an Exclusive Trade likewise to the *Spanish* Coast, nothing being more evident than that no advantageous Trade can be carried on thither by the *British*, and particularly the Woolen Manufactures, without Negroes, to put them off, and to defray the Charges of transporting them; the supplying or with-holding thereof will depend intirely on the Pleasure of the Company.

IV. That thereby we shall likewise be barr'd of a most beneficial Trade from this Island to the Coast of *Africa*, which employs a vast Number of our Sailors, and takes off several Commodities of the Growth of this Island, which would otherwise be of little or no Use to us; The Advantage whereof in the End centers in *Great Britain*.

Lastly, That Trade being reduc'd within so narrow a Compass as that of an Exclusive Company, the Navigation, which is the principal Strength of this Island must necessarily suffer; our Country already thin of People want Encouragement, and be render'd incapable of defending it self either against a foreign or domestick Enemy: Besides our being deprived for the future of the many Opportunities we have hitherto enjoy'd of remitting great Quantities of Bullion yearly to *Great Britain*.

*Vera Copia.*

JAMAICA, June 1. 1711.



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AN  
ADDRESS  
To Her MAJESTY,  
From the Governour, Council and  
Assembly, of the Island of Jamaica,  
AGAINST  
An Exclusive Trade to Africa.